ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for debugging a software program is provided that is non-intrusive and allows multiple persons to debug concurrently in view private sessions. In one example, a method includes preserving a memory state of a portion of a software program, such as a database system. A second software program is compiled and dynamically linked, and which when executed, would normally cause modification to targeted data in the preserved portion of the software program. The second software program is executed by making a copy of the targeted data in the preserved portion of the software program. The copy is modified to generate a modified copy of the targeted data without modifying the data that is in the preserved portion of the software program. In subsequent accesses, the user that issued that executed the second software program accesses the modified copy whenever the user would have otherwise accessed the corresponding preserved portion. The second software program is made accessible to other users of the database system by publishing in the preserved portion a corresponding symbolic name associated with the second software program. If another user accesses the second software program and executes it, then another copy of the targeted data is made for that user. As before the copy is modified to generate a modified copy of the targeted data without modifying the data that is in the preserved portion of the software program.